

Proposed response to question #1

The National Intelligence Topics were developed by the policymakers themselves and approved by the NSC Policy Review Committee. As such, they are not a document of the Intelligence Community and can only be released to the Committee by the National Security Council.

Proposed response to question #3

The NITs are the formal expression of consumer priorities. The nature and priority of the NITs (both the long-term and current topics) are determined by these consumers acting jointly as the PRC(I) in accordance with EO 12036. Procedures for determining NITs are aimed at bringing out real consumer interests, not expressing what the Community assumes to be consumer interest. The process involves canvassing key policymakers, circulating draft questions among members of the PRC(I), and finally, review and formal approval of the NITs by the PRC(I).

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Question Nos. 2 & 5

2. Can you show how the NITs are factually (rather than "technically") translated as requirements and priorities on the intelligence community's production and collection of intelligence in response thereto?

5. Can you show how the NITs and DCID 1/2 are effective in prioritizing collection requirements, or are the prerogatives of the collection asset manager the principle factor affecting tasking priorities?

Answer: The NITs form part of the framework of decisions by the NFAC Production Board on research and production programs. The National Intelligence Officers recommend to the D/DCI/NFA the division of production responsibility between the NFAC, DIA, State/INR, and some other analytic elements of the Community. The intelligence problems comprising the production programs are individually treated by the NFAC production offices and the NFAC Requirements and Evaluation Staff to ensure that intelligence information requirements are formally registered with each of the collection managers. This is a dynamic process and the requirements are frequently changed in response to information received or changes in a collector's capability. The DCID 1/2 is used as a reference for ~~the justification of~~ priorities, in addition to the NITs, when registering the requirements with collectors. The NITs and the DCID 1/2 are useful expressions of priorities and we find that collection managers are generally responsive to them.

Question No. 4

4. What are the procedures used for insuring priorities as established in DCID 1/2 are consistent with those set forth in the NITs?

Answer: From a substantive point of view the NIOs are a key factor in developing required and appropriate consistency between the basic and long term NITs and the DCID 1/2 attachment. Procedurally and from the standpoint of Community coordination the DCI has charged the D/DCI/CT and through him the DCID 1/2 Ad Hoc Committee with aligning the NITs and DCID 1/2 priorities. This has been accomplished during the recent revision of DCID 1/2.